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No. 12—80-5.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

EMIGRATION.

Simla, the 13th October 1904.

RESOLUTION.

The following correspondence is published for general information:—

I. From the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Governor General of India, dated the 18th August 1904.

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Minister of State for External Affairs in the Commonwealth Government has had under consideration the question of so administering the Immigration Restriction Act as to afford an opportunity for Indian merchants, students, and tourist travellers to enter the Commonwealth temporarily without being subjected to any restrictions, with the result that it has now been decided that any persons *bona fide* of the classes mentioned desirous of visiting Australia will be admitted to the Commonwealth, provided they are in possession of Passports from the Indian Government sufficiently identifying them and specifying the purpose and probable duration of their visit. Such documents will be accepted by the Commonwealth Government as entitling the holders to freely enter and pass through Australia, the only condition being that the Passports shall be examined at the first port of call.

"2. Upon arrival in the Commonwealth, the education test prescribed by the Immigration Restriction Act will in these cases not be imposed, and such persons will be permitted to land without restriction, but, in the event of their wishing to stay longer than twelve months, an application for a Certificate of Exemption for the desired term should be lodged before the expiry of such time, and the reason for such exemption stated. It will, of course, be understood that in any such cases none of the rights of the Government of the Commonwealth under the Immigration Restriction Act are to be considered as abandoned, and that, should it be found that the concession is being abused, the practice will be subject to review at any time.

"3. An undertaking will be required from all such persons to advice the Customs Officer at the port of departure when they are about to leave the Commonwealth.

"4. At the request of my Prime Minister, I have the honour to bring this matter under Your Excellency's notice, with a request that you will be good enough to inform me whether arrangements can be made in India accordingly. If there is no difficulty in the way, the proposals might take effect from an early date, say, the 1st October next, and the Indian Government might take the necessary steps to give the requisite publicity to the matter at the seaports and principal towns of India.

"5. My Ministers hope that this exemption will be the means of promoting intercourse and improving trade relations between the Commonwealth and the great Indian Empire."

II. From the Governor General of India to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, letter No. 1086—80-4 (Emigration), dated the 17th October 1904.

"The Government of India have received with much pleasure the intimation conveyed in Your Excellency's letter of the 18th August 1904 that the Government of the Australian Commonwealth have decided to so far relax the provisions of the Immigration Restriction Act as to permit Indian merchants, students and tourist travellers to visit Australia under Passports granted by the Indian Government. I have the honour to ask you to convey to your Ministers our cordial acknowledgments for this valuable concession and for the sympathy it evinces with the wishes and feelings of the people of India. We cordially concur with your Ministers in hoping that this exemption of the educated classes of Indians from the restrictions imposed on ordinary immigration will result in more frequent intercourse and in an improvement of trade relations, to the mutual advantage of both countries.

"2. In accordance with the suggestion made in paragraph 4 of your letter the necessary steps have been taken to make known throughout India the relaxation of the present regulations conceded by the Commonwealth Government and instructions have been issued with the object of securing that the privilege is granted only to those to whom it is intended to apply. We have arranged to bring the regulations for the grant of Passports into effect from October 22nd.

"3. Your Excellency's recent participation in the Government of India must make it no less gratifying to you than it is to me to have been the means of communicating to our Indian fellow-subjects this evidence of the regard for their interests felt by the Australian people."

2. In accordance with the concession now granted by the Government of the Commonwealth, Secretaries to Local Governments and Administrations and Agents to the Governor General are empowered to issue Passports to Australia, to Indian merchants, students and tourist travellers who desire to visit Australia temporarily. Each application for a Passport should be accompanied by a statement in the form annexed and should be submitted to the Magistrate

of the District in which the applicant resides (or in the case of a resident in a Native State to the Political Officer) for transmission to the Government of the Province or Agent to the Governor General. The Governor General in Council desirous to impress on Local Governments and Administrations and on Agents to the Governor General the necessity for taking every precaution that a Passport shall not be given to any one not strictly eligible for it under the conditions laid down by the Commonwealth Government.

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to all Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and to the Foreign Department for communication to the Agents to the Governor General and Political Officers in Native States.

J. WILSON,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Form to be filled up by an applicant for a Passport to Australia under the terms of Government of India Resolution No. 12—80-5, dated 18th October 1904.

1. Name and Father's name (in English and Vernacular).
2. Caste or clan.
3. Residence.
   (*a*) Town or village.
   (*b*) District or State.
4. Profession or business.
5. Age.
6. Distinctive marks. (For male travellers only.)
7. Purpose of visit. (To be given in full detail.)
8. Probable duration of visit.
9. Port of embarkation.
10. Members of the Applicant's family accompanying him and to be included in the same Passport. (*a*) Names. (*b*) Ages. (*c*) Relationship.

Signature of Applicant.

Date

Endorsement by Magistrate or Political Officer.

I have satisfied myself of the accuracy of the particulars entered above.